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To Whom It May Concern:

It has recently been brought to my attention that the USDA, along with the FDA have each issued papers to ensure the safety of eggs for humans from salmonella in their journey from the farm to the table. This is all well and good, but your two agencies have left out the primary cause of salmonella infection in hens and eggs – inhumane treatment, especially the practice of "forced molting," in which hens are starved for 5 to 10 days to speed up egg production. This practice suppresses hens' immune systems, leaving them easy prey to salmonella infection.

I know that the USDA has acknowledged through its own studies that "forced molting" is a primary cause of the salmonella illness.

I would like to ask the USDA and the FDA to prohibit "forced molting." This is a cruel and inhumane practice that doesn't benefit anyone – especially the hens and the people who might get sick from the salmonella in the eggs.

Thanks for listening,

Sara Beth LaPoint

Humane Society of the United States Member

Sara Beth LaPoint

C71

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